



Final Report
June 2015

NY Long Island Pine Barrens
Suffolk County

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Forest Health Program Division of Lands & Forests

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This section outlines the specific direction put forth by the DEC Division of Lands and Forest through delegation of authority. Objectives are further described by the team's mission statement and implementation of that mission.

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Lists major achievements for each objective identified.

Observations & Recommendations.....

The team identified several actions that should be considered to further cooperation/collaboration knowledge and call to action.

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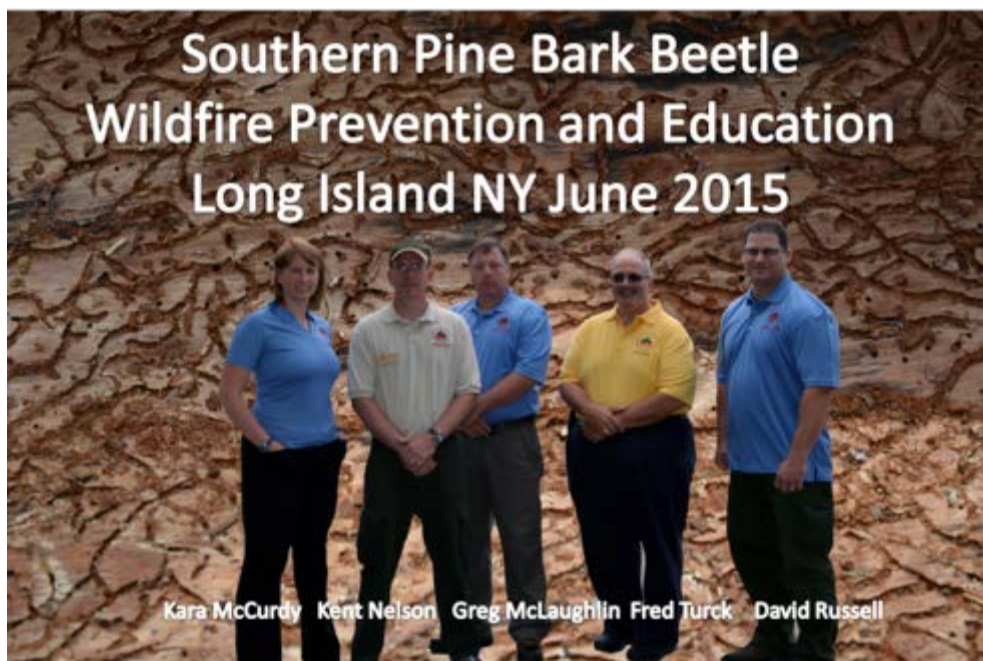
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Introduction

A dozen state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) forestry experts from all across New York and a group of educators from the Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic Forest Fire Protection Compacts arrived in Long Island this week. The foresters will be concentrating on inventorying the Pitch Pine resources throughout the area, in an attempt to prioritize the work necessary as the infestation broadens. While the groups of educators who are part of a National Wildfire Prevention and Education Team will develop “educational tools” and offer suggestions on how best to inform both internal and external folks as to the risk and what their responsibilities are all in an attempt to minimize the damages the beetles can and are doing..

“The southern pine beetle has destroyed thousands of trees on Long Island and remains a major threat to the Pine Barrens and other forested areas in the region,” DEC Commissioner Joe Martens said in a press release Tuesday. “DEC forestry experts are working closely with state, local and federal experts to manage and mitigate the impacts of this threat, and protect the critical natural resources that are so important to the ecology of Long Island.”

The (WFPET) Wildfire prevention and education team, which includes members from New Jersey, Maine, Massachusetts, Virginia and Nova Scotia, will work on communication strategies and educational materials to raise public awareness about the southern pine beetle and how people can help limit its impact.

The DEC has put together an education page on the Southern Pine Beetle, which is considered one of the most destructive forest pests in the country. The beetle infests all pine species, including pitch pine, which is the predominant species found in the Long Island Pine Barrens, which makes up 55,000 acres in the core pine barrens area and 100,000 more acres of surrounding similar ecosystems.

Very much like a wildfire as the beetle infestation becomes more established and builds up a head of steam the more challenging the mitigation and educational efforts will be. As one can imagine this has drawn a lot of media attention and up to now has been mostly positive.

The beetle outbreak could have further dire consequences for public and private lands. The entire Long Island Pine Barrens is important as a complex of relatively undeveloped pine barrens forest and wetlands containing regionally rare wetland and upland communities and supporting the highest diversity of rare species in New York State. In addition virtually all of Long Island’s drinking water is drawn from a single system of underground reservoirs, known as aquifers. This led the federal

Environmental Protection Agency to designate our aquifer system as the nation's first Sole Source Aquifer, requiring special protection. The Pine Barrens overlie the source of the greatest quantity of the purest drinking water on Long Island. The Southern Pine Beetle infestation threatens the very vegetation cover that protects this valuable resource.

While the wildfire threat has not manifested itself at this time there is the potential which must be taken into consideration when developing any management plan. When the trees have died and all the needles have fallen to the ground they will for a short time be additional fine fuels that could increase the potential for wildfires to start. However what is a more concern to firefighters is the fact that all these dead and down trees until they rot will increase the amount of fuel that will burn should a wildfire start. These increased fuels will allow fires to burn hotter and move faster making them harder and more dangerous to fight.

The WFPET was based out of the Suffolk County Fire Training Center in Yaphank NY. The team first met with Bill Fonda, to brief the team on the recent conditions and to discuss the team's objectives, areas of emphasis and key contacts. The team has had ongoing coordination with DEC personnel and with our hosts throughout the assignment. Due to the nature of the assignment and the difficulty to gather all critical "players" together prior demob a conference call is being planned which will serve as a final closeout with the team and various cooperators along with our host agency personnel.

Team Members and Assignment

Background

Almost 3 months ago the discussions began between the North East Forest Fire Compact and the State of NY Forestry folks about the possibility of having a group of folks come to Long Island to help with the Southern Pine Beetle outbreak. The NE Compact had just recently established a Forest Health unit so it was felt that this would be a good opportunity from several aspects. At that time it was not clear as to what was wanted and was a team was capable of providing. After several discussions it was determined that the Compact would use this opportunity as a training session for a Wildfire Prevention and Education Team. However they did not have within their compact a team leader nor any subject matter expert that has dealt with this previously. It was decided to reach out to the Mid-Atlantic Forest Fire Compact for these additional resources. So an agreement/understanding between NY DEC and the two Compacts was brokered.

From the North East Compact the following people were selected for the assignment

David Russell, NY DEC - Team Member/Team Leader Trainee

Kent Nelson, Maine Forestry – Team Member

Kara McCurdy, Nova Scotia Forestry – Team Member

Roxanne Savoie, Mass Forestry – Team Member

From the Mid-Atlantic Forest Fire Compact the following were selected for the team

Fred Turck, Virginia Department of Forestry – Team Leader

Greg McLaughlin, NJ Forest Fire Service – Team Member SME on SPB

There were several changes just prior to the assignment

Roxanne Savoie needed to cancel due to health issues, however she did provide some guidance during the assignment, especially with regards to social media.

David Russell spent the first day with the team but was then recalled to his home unit to help participate with the massive man-hunt for the two NY escaped convicts. Kent Nelson assumed the role of Team Leader Trainee. After 3 days Greg needed to also return to his home unit.

Prior to the Team's arrival and during the initial briefing with Bill Fonda the team was tasked with the following;

- Something to describe the SPB problem on LI with some info that could be distributed stake holders.
- Write articles for various publications.
- Develop a SPB brochure, not on insect facts but management, identification and forest health.
- Promote the team of foresters down to help with an inventory of the Pitch Pine component.
- Attend public meetings.
- Create a foundation for outreach.
- Provide advice as to helping re-organize the effort.
- Develop brochures on various related aspects using DEC template.
- Develop fact sheets again on a variety of topics using DEC template.
- Develop poster ideas that highlight signs, symptoms and risks of SPB infestation in an attempt to raise awareness and initiate a call to action.
- Develop a standard PowerPoint that can be used in meetings etc. *This already had been accomplished by John Wernet prior to teams arrival.
- Prepare press releases ref the team's arrival and the forest inventory work. *Again this was accomplished by DEC prior to team's arrival.
- Offer suggestions for the use of social media, mostly via Facebook and tweets.

A lot of valuable work was done prior to the teams arrival first and foremost the first day was organized to allow the team to visit and talk with several of the main cooperators. See the day's agenda below.

June 8

8:00 a.m. Welcome – Bill Fonda, Citizen Participation Specialist, DEC Region 1

10:30 a.m. Background on SPB Management/ Pine Barrens/ Public Information Needs

John Wernet, Department of Environmental Conservation Regional Forester

Dick Amper, Executive Director of the Long Island Pine Barrens Society

John Pavacic, Executive Director of the Central Pine Barrens Commission

Location: Suffolk County Fire Rescue and Emergency Training Facility in Yaphank.

12:30 p.m. Media Event with DEC Foresters

Location: Rocky Point State Pine Barrens Preserve

1:00 p.m. Presentation of USFWS Management of SPB - Monica Williams, Wildlife

Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Location: Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge, Shirley

2:15 p.m. Presentation on NPS Management of SPB

Elizabeth Rogers- Science Communications Park Ranger Fire Island National Seashore

Mike Bilecki- Chief, Natural Resources Management Fire Island National Seashore

Jordan Raphael- Park Biologist Fire Island National Seashore

Location: William Floyd Estate, Mastic Beach

Direction to William Floyd Estate -

<http://www.nps.gov/fiis/planyourvisit/directions-to-long-island-and-fire-island.htm>

After the initial briefing and the several meetings and visits on the first day our list of tasks/assignments were refined to a prioritized list of items based on the teams strengths and time constraints. See Below.

Tasks

- Best Management Practices (Factsheets/Brochures)
 - Fire Departments
 - Homeowners
 - Tourists/Parks
 - DEC Management strategy, but incorporate the interagency management practises and education

-
- Social Media – electronic messaging – Library posts
- Info-Graphic – Pine Beetle
- Talking Points for Field Staff
- Canned PSA
- Slogans – i.e. Protecting your investments
- PowerPoint – Why would anybody cut a tree (Kids) – Agency Education
- Press Releases

Mission

With input from requesting agency the Team developed its mission statement, which provided an overall guidance for all of our actions and activities. That mission statement is:

Our direction was to focus on 5 target audiences with a variety of specialized developed products to help raise their awareness and knowledge of the SPB issues confronting the region. Those target audiences are –

- Fire Departments / Firefighters
- Impacted non-governmental landowners
- Tourists / Visitors
- Public Agencies (one message many voices)
- Internal DEC communications

In addition we are here as part of a training opportunity with the North East Forest Fire Compact, to improve individuals knowledge, skills and abilities to support the Wildfire Prevention and Education Team concept in the NE and nationally.

KEY MESSAGES

The following were to be addressed whenever, wherever possible in the development of our material.

- The SPB is a native pest most likely found its way to Long Island from NJ who has been dealing with this for several years now
- There are 3 basic management processes (all based on the best science available)
 - Suppression
 - Prevention
 - Restoration

The DEC because of limited resources can only (for now) focus on outbreaks found on state and local town/county lands. The DEC will only be able to offer educational material and guidance to private landowners.

- Within the Suppression management there are options of cut and leave or cut and remove and the DEC is recommending the cut and leave method. However if possible removing the material from the area is most beneficial. It is good to note here that the term “suppression” is not well understood by the public. The team is recommending using the term elimination or something more easily understood. Suppression too confusing with fire.
- This outbreak of Southern Pine Beetle threatens the water quality of Long Island.
- Also at threat is the ecological importance and biodiversity of the Island.
- The beetle does NOT recognize any property or an ownership line, this problem is important to all Long Islanders.

Methods and products developed by the team used to help convey the SPB problem included:

Press Conference

News Releases and Media Updates:

Public Contacts and Coordination:

Key Messages and Prevention Tips:

Signs and Posters:

Factsheets and Brochures:

Other:

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#1

Met and worked closely with many of the key agency personnel (local and forest health division), other cooperators and partners. Based all of our work on these meetings and provided information.

#2

Developed many products, however due to our time limitations we were only able to develop these in prototypes. DEC and other users of these “products” need to fine tune and place into their agency required format. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THESE ARE SHARED AND WHENEVER POSSIBLE BE JOINTLY PUBLISHED. (One Message Many Voices)

#3

On the last day with the full team we were able to get out into the community and visit with 2 homeowners who have SPB spots. This was VERY good for us and it provided several key points which we worked into several of our observations, recommendations and last few “products”.

Observations / Recommendations

- On many of the “spots” the trees being removed are just the infected and that there is no buffer. Also the removal of buffer trees is not really a point of discussion especially when trying to convey to non-agency folks the cut and leave method.
- Suppression, Prevention and Reforestation are big words for public do they clearly understand them? Especially the term “suppression” this is a bit confusing with a wildfire/forest fire term. Suggest another term maybe ... Control.
- Need to apply for grant money (possibly federal) to help private landowner’s treat tree’s killed by the SPB. MOST established programs are for the “prevention” stage, improving the forests health NOT for the control methods, cut-leave, cut-remove.
 - [\(SPB\) Grant - State of New Jersey](#)
 - [Southern Pine Beetle \(SPB\) Cost Share Program - Georgia ...](#)
- If at all possible, the grant money could also be used to produce one or more of the PSA’s for both tv and radio. Perhaps a local celebrity could be used in the PSA...(golfer, tv star, structural FF, etc)
- Need to educate and inform local arborists about treatment for trees affected by SPB.
- Also need to educate planning board members, code enforcement officers and homeowners so they understand the urgency and importance of cutting trees infested with the SPB.
- Many towns have ordinances require a permit to cut trees on residential property. In these cases, a letter could be written from a NY DEC Forester. We suggest the letter include the following:
- Emphasize the need for cutting infected trees to reduce the spread of SPB / minimize further damage to pines.
- Suggest that municipalities waive the fees associated with tree cutting permits for pines infested with SPB.
- If Bill and others had not done the pre assignment work they did we would NOT have been as beneficial. Should a team be ordered up in the future it would be good to review with someone the ordering process and obligations of the requesting agency. A delegation of authority is critical to a teams deployment.

- If feasible, temporarily repeal the requirement for tree cutting permits for trees infested with SPB.
- The Talking Points prepared by the Team must be widely distributed within and outside of the DEC. Seems like those DEC employees outside of the impact area are not that aware or involved. This epidemic WILL impact the entire agency from Buffalo to Plattsburg to Albany down to the Island. There seems from the discussion with various field folks that the DEC leadership out of Albany needs to take a field trip and see the challenges and impacts the folks in Region 1 are up against.
- A great job has been done since the initial observations in 2014 with informing the public AND the media on the insect itself NOW is the time to be pro-active with talking to those non-governmental folks who will soon if they are not already being impacted. The visit the team had with two such property owners was very eye-opening and should be considered an insight as to the challenges NY will be facing.
 - The following was taken from a letter to farmers/timber owners from the local governing body in a county in Virginia in 1964 during the initial stages of an infestation. “If we don’t get these pine bark beetles controlled this winter, we may have a very serious problem next spring. It may cost you money then. I understand the State of Georgia has just paid about \$1,000,000 of tax payer’s money for control.”

There are numerous statements to be found in many current publications, I just shared this oldie with you as an example that the SPB problem has been around for a long time and it is a serious problem with NO EASY ANSWERS.

Appendix 1

Team Documents

Complete documents on thumb drive

Fliers, mini-posters,
infographic, coloring book

SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE CONTROL SITE

Foresters cut trees in this area to control an outbreak and help prevent the spread of the southern pine beetle, a destructive forest pest.



Enlarged—The Southern Pine Beetle is actually 1.9" or about the size of a grain of rice.



Scan the QR code or visit www.dec.ny.gov/lands/animals/99331 for more information.


IT TAKES A COMMUNITY TO RESTORE A FOREST

New York is protecting forests and species at risk in Long Island. Working with local people and agencies to create more sustainable trees and conserve its central pine barrens. What does the forest do for residents?

Education & Awareness	Enhancing Livelihoods	Forest Restoration
60,000 people with forest industry related jobs contribute \$4.4 billion to New York's economy 18.5 billion reasons to protect New York's forests (acres) 61% of the state is covered in forests 614,000 individuals and families own 11.4 million acres of New York's forests 3 times faster New York's forests are growing over 3 times faster than they are being harvested, cleared for development or lost to insects and disease.	7,568,304 residents benefitting from clean water sources 105,000 acres of Pine Barrens being protected by reducing the spread of invasive Pine Beetle Forests create shade, habitat for wildlife and oxygen for all. Managing forests is important to the health of the forests. 26 state parks and historical sites	Monitoring the spread of Southern Pine Beetle Recycling cut trees back to the earth for regeneration Planting new trees to replace those removed to stop the spread of pine beetle Managing and regulating Long Island's forests for healthier forests and healthier people! Do your part in preserving Long Island's natural beauty!

SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE

On The Web



What is a Southern Pine Beetle?

The aggressive bark beetle is a pest that has been spreading in the pine barrens of Long Island. These beetles are the southern pine beetle, which is a pest of pine trees. It is a small, reddish-brown beetle, and it is about the size of a grain of rice. It is a pest of pine trees, and it is a pest of pine trees. It is a pest of pine trees, and it is a pest of pine trees.

What are the signs of a Southern Pine Beetle infestation?

The signs of a Southern Pine Beetle infestation are: 1) The bark of the tree is peeling off. 2) The bark of the tree is covered in small holes. 3) The bark of the tree is covered in small, white, fuzzy spots. 4) The bark of the tree is covered in small, white, fuzzy spots. 5) The bark of the tree is covered in small, white, fuzzy spots.

What are the options for controlling a Southern Pine Beetle infestation?

The options for controlling a Southern Pine Beetle infestation are: 1) The bark of the tree is peeling off. 2) The bark of the tree is covered in small holes. 3) The bark of the tree is covered in small, white, fuzzy spots. 4) The bark of the tree is covered in small, white, fuzzy spots. 5) The bark of the tree is covered in small, white, fuzzy spots.

Wildfire

Wildfire is a natural phenomenon that can be caused by lightning, human activities, or other factors. It is a fire that spreads rapidly and can cause significant damage to property and the environment. It is a fire that spreads rapidly and can cause significant damage to property and the environment.

Draft of a tri-fold brochure for homeowners.



CONTACT INFORMATION
FOR A FREE TRI-FOOLD BROCHURE
ON THE SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE
AND HOW TO PREVENT IT
FROM SPREADING
CALL 1-800-456-7890
OR VISIT WWW.DEC.NY.GOV

SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE

Information for Long Island



Talking Points for DEC and others

SOUTHERN PINE
BEETLE

Talking Points



Sample PSA's

Long Island SPB Project

Script name: **time will tell**

updated June 9, 2015

Length: 30 seconds

Long Island SPB Project

Script name: **healthy forest**

updated June 9, 2015

Length: 30 seconds

Long Island SPB Project

Script name: **wishful thinking**

updated June 11, 2015

Length: 30 seconds

Key Contact List

Fire Prevention Education Team Assignment - Long Island New York - CONTACTS					
Name	Position	Office Location	Work	Cell	Email
PREVENTION TEAM					
Fred X. Turck	Team Leader	Virginia	434-220-8052	757-334-2695	fred.turck@dof.virginia.gov
David Russell	Team L. Trainee	New York	518-483-2836	518-335-3914	david.russell@dec.ny.gov
Roxanne Savoie	Team Member	Massachusetts	413-538-9092	508-769-2325	roxanne.savoie@state.ma.us
Kent Nelson	Team Member	Maine	207-287-4989	207-557-2253	kent.nelson@maine.gov
Greg MacLaughlin	Insects	New Jersey	609-984-3866	609-649-3611	gregory.mclaughlin@dep.ni.gov
Kara McCurdy	Team Member	Nova Scotia	902-758-7232	902-758-5099	kara.mccurdy@novascotia.ca
LOCAL CONTACTS AND SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS					
Rob Cole	New York Rep	New York	518-402-9420	518-605-4757	robert.cole@dec.ny.gov
Kevin Dodds	Insects	New Hampshire			kdodds@fs.fed.us
Tom Parent	NE E.Director	Maine	207-968-3782		necomact@fairpoint.net
Gerard Lecasse	Web	Quebec	418-573-2245 Ext:5484		glacasse@sopfeu.qc.ca
Olney Knight	Ops Rep	Rhode Island	401-539-2356		Olney.Knight@dem.ri.gov
Erin Brady	NYS Dept. of E & C	Albany NY	518-408-0979	518-320-4781	erin.brady@dec.ny.gov
Jessica Cancelliere	Research/Forest Health	NYSDEC	518-478-7813	518-810-1609	jessica.cancelliere@dec.ny.gov
John Wernet	Supervising Forester	Stony Brook NY	631-444-0285	315-396-3959	john.wernet@dec.ny.gov
Bill Fonda	Citizen Participation Specialist and Incident Management	Stony Brook NY	631-444-0350		bill.fonda@dec.ny.gov
Sharon Miller	Suffolk Fire Academy	Yaphank NY	631-924-6822		Smiller@scfa-li.org

Aphrodite Montalvo	DEC CPS	Stony Brook NY	631-444-0350		aphrodite.montalvo@dec.ny.gov
Ben Bober	NYS DEC social media coordinator	NYS DEC Central office	518-402-8011		benjamin.bober@dec.ny.gov
Richard Amper	Executive Director of Long Island Pine Barrens Society				amper@pinebarrens.org
Cathy Kittle	Digital and Print Media Bureau Director	NYS DEC Central office	518-402-8006		Cathy.Kittle@dec.ny.gov
Fire Prevention Education Team Assignment - Long Island New York - CONTACTS					
LOCAL CONTACTS AND SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS - CONTINUED					
Name	Position				Email
John Pavacic	Executive Director of Central Pine Barrens Commission				jpavacic@pb.state.ny.us
Elizabeth Rogers	Science Communications Ranger at Fire Island				elizabeth.rogers@nps.gov
Jordan Raphael	Park Biologist Fire Island National Park				jordan.raaphael@.nps.gov
Michael Bilecki	Chief NRM Fire Island National Seashore				michael.bilecki@nps.gov
Gwen Beavans	National WFP Manager	Washington	202-205-1488		gbeavans@fs.fed.us
Maureen Brooks	Community Fire Planner for North East USA		610-557-4146		mtbrooks@fs.fed.us

Appendix 2

Daily Reports



SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE



LONG ISLAND PINE BARRENS



Team Members:

- Fred Turck Team Leader Virginia Department of Forestry
- Kent Nelson Team Leader (T) Maine Forest Service Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
- Kara McCurdy Team Member Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources
- David Russell Team Member NY Department of Environmental Conservation

Department of Forestry

The WFPET was deployed on June 7, 2015 and was assigned to be working out of the Suffolk County Fire Training Academy in Yaphank NY located on Long Island. Funding for the team was provided by the North East Forest Fire Compact and the Mid-Atlantic Forest Fire Compact. Several NY DEC employees were assigned to the team as liaisons and subject matter experts. Bill Fonda, Rob Cole, Jessica Cancelliere and John Wernet were primary points of contact.

NFFPC / MAFFPC FPET Daily reports for mobilization to Long Island, NY June 2015

Monday, June 8

Met with DEC's Bill Fonda and set up working space at the Suffolk County Fire Training Facility.

Attended meeting with Dick Amper (Long Island Pine Barrens Society) and John Pavacic (Central Pine Barrens Commission) to get their perspective and background info on the SPB infestation / preserving pine barrens on Long Island.

Participated in the SPB media event at Rocky Point State Pine Barrens Preserve. CH 12 CBS and FOX and CH 2 covered the newstory.

Discussion and field tour of treated pitch pine areas in the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge and the National Park Service's William Floyd Estate.

Returned to work space in Yaphank and began formulating outreach ideas, target audiences and recommendations for a multi-agency approach. Those Organizations/Agencies identified as critical partners were the State DEC-Foresrty, Suffolk and Nassau Counties, The Pine Barrens Commission, The Long Island Pine Barrens Society, USFWS, NPS, various Towns and State Parks.

Tuesday, June 9

Met with DEC representatives and prioritized tasks / outreach products. Below is a list of those tasks and prioritized by the host along with team member assignments.

Tasks

- Best Management Practises (One Pagers)
 - Fire Departments – Greg
 - Homeowners – Fred
 - Tourists/Parks – Kara
 - DEC Management strategy, but incorporate the interagency management practises and education – Greg/Kent
- Social Media – electronic messaging – Library posts – ALL
- Info-Graphic – Pine Beetle – Kara
- Talking Points for Field Staff – Fred
- Canned PSA – Kent
- Slogans – ie Protecting your investments – ALL
- Powerpoint – Why would anybody cut a tree (Kids) – Agency Education – Fred
- Press Releases
- Powerpoint for adults on SPB – Already Developed by DEC

Started producing products using DEC templates.



SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE



LONG ISLAND PINE BARRENS



Team Members:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| • Fred Turck | Team Leader | Virginia Department of Forestry |
| • Kent Nelson | Team Leader (T) | Maine Forest Service Department of Agriculture,
Conservation and Forestry |
| • Kara McCurdy | Team Member | Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources |
| • David Russell | Team Member | NY Department of Environmental Conservation
Department of Forestry |

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NFFPC / MAFFPC FPET Daily reports for mobilization to Long Island, NY June 2015

Wednesday, June 10

Continued work on

Fact sheets:

- What You Should Know As A Visitor
- What Homeowners Need To Know
- Wildfire Preparedness And Response
- Strategies For Successful And Control And Prevention

Talking Points

Library for social media tweets / posts.

Met with Bill Fonda(DEC), Anne McIntyre (Parks) and other key staff members at Connetquot River State Park about



Pitch Tubes on WP

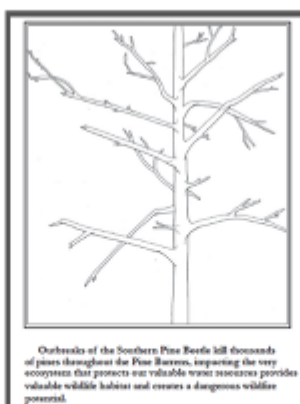
their SPB outbreak. Visited several spots, interesting to note that it was NOT just Pitch Pine being impacted but White Pine and Norway Spruce. Areas along trails that are utilized by anglers is a concern from the safety of those utilizing these trails. The Pitch Pine was more of a pocket of a couple dozen trees where the White Pine and Spruce were more single trees near the visitor center.



Pitch Pine Spot

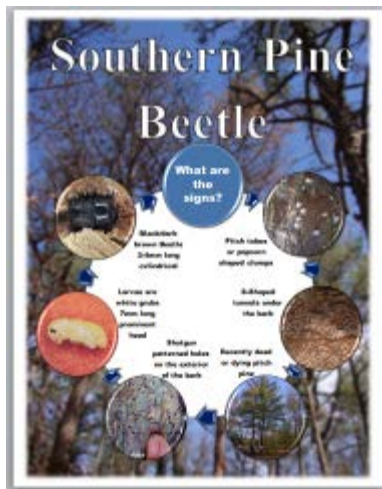
Completed the Coloring/Activity Book for children. Sample Pages

Developed posters



several mini-

Example



Tomorrow will mostly be an office day as it will be the last full day with the 3 remaining Team members, Turck, McCurdy and Nelson. A mini-close-out is planned with Bill Fonda for late in the afternoon.



SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE



LONG ISLAND PINE BARRENS



Team Members:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| • Fred Turck Team Leader | Virginia Department of Forestry |
| • Kent Nelson Team Leader (T) | Maine Forest Service Department of Agriculture,
Conservation and Forestry |
| • Kara McCurdy Team Member | Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources |
| • David Russell Team Member | NY Department of Environmental Conservation
Department of Forestry |
| • Greg McLaughlin Team Member | NJ Forest Fire Service |

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Today (Thursday 6/11) was the last full day with the remaining Team members. It was spent mostly with administrative tasks, finalizing products, and report compilation.

However we did have the opportunity to talk with two homeowners very near the training center we were working out of. After observing several “red-tops” we investigated and ultimately talked with one owner who had 3-5 SPB trees and the other one had 12-18 trees. While providing information we found that their reluctance to cut the trees was not the cost of \$700-\$800 per tree (yes per tree, welcome to Long Island), actually this might be a bit less if several were taken down at one time. The problem was the tree cutting ordinance of the Town Of Brookhaven. For a first time violation for cutting down a tree without a permit it would be a \$500 to \$2,000 fine and 15 days in jail. To just apply for a permit it costs \$300...ouch! We wrote a letter to our host suggesting that DEC seek to broker an agreement with the Town of Brookhaven (and other similar towns) to waive the application fee if a SPB spot has been identified and confirmed by a DEC employee or a trained town employee. Training for town officials was also suggested.

We feel this is a **CRITICAL** action to work towards because without it we feel a majority of the pine component of this small community and other similar ones will be devastated.



To
the

right is a list of many of the “products” we developed...

The team discussed the importance of sharing many of the prototype products developed with the various partners here in the Pine Barrens on the Island especially if many were not going to be further developed by the DEC as during our talking with these partners they were asking for this type of material.

This will find its way in the final report but we also feel strongly that a Southern Pine Beetle Task Force be created to help leverage each cooperators strengths and resources to help with the situation. As the beetle moves off state, federal and locality lands onto private lands more and more the challenges of education and on the ground accomplishments will become more and more challenging.

The pictures below are from Virginia in an area very much like what there is the potential for here on the Island. When citizens are being directly impacted, when it hits home so to say they will demand support and guidance beyond the current capacity of the cooperators now working together.

- Control Site 1.pub
- Dear Pine Beetle.docx
- final homeowner SPB Fact Sheet.docx
- It Takes a community to Save a Forest.docx
- POster.pub
- script 1 - time will tell.doc
- script 2 - healthy forest.doc
- script 3 - wishful thinking.doc
- Southern Pine Beetle Talking Points.docx
- SPB BMP_ DEC strategies.docx
- SPB BMP_ Wildfire Preparedness and Response.docx
- SPB brochure for homeowners.docx
- SPB Fact Sheet Tourists.docx
- SPB FF Safety 1.pdf
- SPB on the web Southern Pine Beetle.docx
- SPB Signs poster.docx
- SPBColoringBook2ndEd.pdf



As this will be our last daily report we want to thank the DEC AND ALL who have welcomed us and supported our efforts. We just hope that our work will make your job a bit easier when it comes to communicating and educating those being impacted now and who will be later. Good luck and PLEASE keep in mind the capabilities of a National Wildfire Prevention and Education Team as you work this “incident”.

Appendix 3

Media Coverage

DURING OUR ASSIGNMENT



Southern Pine Beetle Spreads to Bethpage State Park

Long Island Press - Jun 8, 2015

"If left untreated, the **Southern Pine Beetle** can move swiftly to nearby forested areas. Insecticides have been shown to be mostly ineffective against SPB, and also poses certain risks to the environment and **Long Island's** sole source drinking water aquifer."



Southern pine beetle found in Nassau for first time after destroying thousands of ...

Newsday - Jun 7, 2015

A beetle responsible for the death of thousands of pine trees across Suffolk now has been confirmed for the first time in Nassau, state officials said. The **southern pine beetle**, discovered on **Long Island** last year, until recently only had been spotted in pine ...



Southern pine beetle found in Bethpage State Park

News 12 Long Island - Jun 8, 2015

A pest that has killed thousands of Suffolk pine trees has appeared in Nassau County. State officials say the **southern pine beetle** has been found for the very first time in Bethpage State Park. Until now, the destructive beetle was only killing pine trees in ...



First Case Of Destructive Southern Pine Beetle Confirmed In Nassau County

CBS Local - Jun 8, 2015

"To try to help people identify this little **beetle** because there are all kinds of insects in the woods," said Maine forest ranger Kent Nelson. But environmentalists worry about the pace. The **Pine** Barrens protect **Long Island's** drinking water supply. "They're doing ...



[State Calls Forestry Resources to Long Island to Fight Southern ...](#)

East End Beacon-Jun 11, 2015

Daniel Brennan photo for the **Long Island** National Wildlife Refuge Complex ... "The **southern pine beetle** has destroyed thousands of trees on **Long Island** and ...



[DEC Foresters and Northeast Compact Education Team Join Forces ...](#)

LongIsland.com-Jun 9, 2015

"The **southern pine beetle** has destroyed thousands of trees on **Long Island** and remains a major threat to the Pine Barrens and other forested areas in the ...



[This Morning's Bulletin — 6.10.15](#)

East End Beacon-Jun 10, 2015

The **Southern Pine Beetle**, which has been responsible for the death of ... Fire Protection Commission arrived in **Long Island** this week to combat the beetle and ...

PREVIOUS TO OUR ASSIGNMENT

1.



[Southern Pine Beetle Continues to be a Problem on East End](#)

Patch.com-Jun 2, 2015

The **Southern Pine Beetle**, which is considered one of the most destructive forest pests in the U.S. and has been found in areas across **Long Island** past fall, ...

2.



[Trees besieged by spread of southern pine beetle](#)

Newsday-May 23, 2015

The **southern pine beetle** was first found on **Long Island** last fall. Its discovery has led officials scrambling to halt the spread of the fast-moving pest, largely by ...

3.



[Southern pine beetle found invading all corners of state](#)

theday.com-May 30, 2015

The beetles have been moving gradually north for decades, Rutledge said, appearing in the **Pine Barrens** in New Jersey about 10 years ago and on **Long Island** ...



1. [URI Entomologists On Lookout for New Insect Invader](#)

ecoRI news-Jun 4, 2015

The **southern pine beetle**, which is native to the southern United States, spread north to New Jersey in 2001, and was discovered in pine forests on **Long Island** ...

1.



[DEC Foresters and Northeast Compact Education Team Join Forces ...](#)

LongIsland.com-Jun 9, 2015

"The **southern pine beetle** has destroyed thousands of trees on **Long Island** and remains a major threat to the Pine Barrens and other forested areas in the ...

2.



[Long Island's Battle Against Southern Pine Beetles Stretches To Fire ...](#)

CBS Local-Apr 8, 2015

"The mission is to limit the spread of the **southern pine beetle** across **Long Island**, but especially here on the Barrier Island," said Elizabeth Rogers,

...

3.



[Pine Beetle Ravaging A Thousand Acres Of Long Island's Pine ...](#)

CBS Local-Feb 20, 2015

As CBS2's Carolyn Gusoff reported, the **southern pine beetle** made its first-ever appearance in New York State last fall in **Long Island** parks. Now, the State ...

[DEC Begins Taking Down Trees to Control Pine Beetles](#)

East End Beacon-Feb 20, 2015

4. [Long Island's southern pine beetle infestation now 'full-blown,' DEC ...](#)

Newsday-Jan 31, 2015

John Wernet, of the DEC, holds a piece of bark that has a **southern pine beetle** attached in Hampton Bays, Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2014. (Credit: Randee

...

5.



[Long Island Confronts Destructive Southern Pine Beetles](#)

New York Times-Oct 28, 2014

No one yet knows the extent of the invasion on **Long Island**, but according to the ... That the **southern pine beetle** would have been found in the pine forests of ...

1. [DEC Welcomes Out-of-State Crews for Southern Pine Beetle Work](#)

LongIsland.com-Apr 16, 2015

Long Island, NY - April 16, 2015 - Three two-person teams of forest health ... survey and map newly discovered **southern pine beetle** (SPB) infestations on State ...

2.



[Southern pine beetle now threatening pines in 7 LI locations](#)

Newsday-Jan 3, 2015

A deadly, fast-moving forest pest first discovered on **Long Island** this past fall ... The **southern pine beetle** -- native to the southern United States and known as ...

1.



[On the Lookout for Destructive Beetles on Long Island](#)

East End Beacon-Dec 5, 2014

Daniel Brennan photo for the **Long Island** National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The New York ... Damage caused by the **southern pine beetle**. | Daniel Brennan ...

2.



[Parts Of Fire Island Closing To Fight Beetle Infestation](#)

CBS Local-Apr 3, 2015

FIRE ISLAND, N.Y. (CBSNewYork/AP) — Part of Fire Island will be closed as the ... The **southern pine** beetles have become a big problem on **Long Island**, killing ..

[Parts of NY's Fire Island closed to fight beetle infestation](#)

News 10NBC-Apr 3, 2015



3.

[Southern Pine Beetle Confirmed for the First Time in New York State](#)

LongIsland.com-Oct 29, 2014

Long Island, NY - October 29, 2014 - The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), in cooperation with the United States Forest ...

[Destructive Beetle discovered on Long Island](#)

West Texas News-Oct 30, 2014



4.

[Dangerous Tree Pests Found on Long Island](#)

NBC New York-Oct 31, 2014

State and federal agencies have found the beetle in Hampton Bays, Shirley and Bohemia. ... confirmed infestations of **southern pine beetle** for the first time in New York. The beetle has been verified in dying pine trees in the Wertheim National ...



5.

[Invasion of Southern pine beetle confirmed in Connecticut](#)

theday.com-Mar 31, 2015

Southern pine beetle is native to the southeastern United States and has long been ... was detected in the Pitch Pine Preserve in eastern **Long Island** in October.

6.



[Beetlemania: Insect poses long-term threat to Pine Barrens](#)

Riverhead News Review-May 4, 2015

The **southern pine beetle**, as it turns out, isn't all that southern anymore. ... Harbor River south of Atlantic City in 2008 and arrived on **Long Island** this past fall.

[Legislature proposes commission to combat pine beetle scourge](#)

Suffolk Times-May 5, 2015

7.



[Hundreds Of Suffolk County Trees To Be Chopped Down Because ...](#)

CBS Local-Feb 4, 2015

... to be removed. Although it's not known how the **southern** beetles came to **Long Island**, Wernet said one theory is they arrived during Hurricane Irene in 2011.

1. [Tiny beetle has LI's pine trees in its sights](#)

Newsday-Feb 8, 2015

Long Island's pine barrens is a lush green carpet. But that beautiful expanse of forest ... The **southern pine beetle** is moving in. The beetles, each smaller than a ...

2.



[Southern pine beetle making its destructive way north](#)

Nantucket Island Inquirer-Nov 6, 2014

Southern pine beetle making its destructive way north ... New York newspapers reported last week the appearance of **southern pine beetle** on **Long Island**.

Although NOT connected with the SPB outbreak does offer some nice insight to the Pine Barrens Importance and political “connection”

8. [Watch Mario Cuomo's Passionate Long Island Pine Barrens Speech](#)

Long Island Press-Jan 10, 2015

The event was held to celebrate the signing of the **Long Island Pine** Barrens Protection Act, which effectively banned construction on more than 50,000 acres of ...

YOUTUBE COVERAGE

2:13



Long Island's Battle Against Southern Pine Beetles Stretches To Fire Island

13:09



Piney News: Nov.2014 - Southern Pine Beetle Epidemic now getting noticed

Southern Pine Beetle Infestation now getting noticed by the Mainstream Media

7:42



Piney News Update Feb 4 - Beetles destroying LI's Pines, 1,000 acres lost

NY State DEC now admits **Pine Beetle** infestation in **Long Island's Pine Barrens** is now full blown and 1000 acres have already ...

5:02



Long Island Piney Power show: Panamoka Pines unscathed by Irene!

It is simply amazing how these Pitch **Pines** hold up in storms! Unfortunately they cant hold up as well against these **Southern Pine** ...

25:41



Long Island Piney Power show: Breathtaking Fall at Bethpage

Bethpage State Park which lies in Eastern Nassau County contains some of the best examples of **Pine** Barrens to be found in this ...

11:13



14:46

Piney News for May 9, 2015: BeetleMania in the Pines



18:05

Piney News Update: June 8, 2015 - Environment under siege

•



22:01

Piney News: Earth Day - April 22, 2015 - Failing the Planet



Long Island Piney Power show: Autumn Lights up along the Connetquot

The Southern Pine Beetle and its Biology

18:29

Piney News: April 2015 - Knocking Down Trees is Green?

7:16



The Invasion of the Southern Pine Beetle

This is a documentary styled video showing the various impacts that the **southern pine beetle** has had throughout the state of New ...

8:16



Piney News Update: No April Fools...Thanks for NOTHING!

Despite promises from NY State legislative officials, there will be NO INCREASE IN STOA (State Transit Operating Assistance) for ...

4:49



Southern Pine Beetle

Dendroctonus frontalis.

Piney News for December 2014: Beetle Outbreak and Climate Change

0:23



Fighting The Southern Pine Beetle

The **southern pine beetle** has been attacking south jersey relentlessly over the past several years. The best known way to deal ...

2:03



Pine Beetle Ravaging A Thousand Acres Of Long Island's Pine Barrens

One of the most destructive pests that have already ravaged forests in New Jersey are now threatening **Long Island**. CBS2's ...

1:04



An Excerpt (The outdoor life history of the Southern Pine Beetle)

See beetlekill.wordpress.com for more information on this project. This is a little edit of a possible excerpt from the documentary ...

14:33



FACEBOOK During our assignment

1. [Save the Long Island Pine Barrens - Long Island ... - Facebook](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/PineBarrensLI>

Southern Pine Beetles now found in Nassau County for the first time

<http://www.newsday.com/.../southern-pine-beetle-found-in-nass...> Suffolk County Planners ...

2. [The Long Island Pine Barrens Society ... - Facebook](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/PineBarrensSociety>

To connect with The **Long Island** Pine Barrens Society, sign up for **Facebook** today. BEETLES HIT NASSAU: The **Southern Pine Beetle**, "responsible for the ...

TWEETS During our assignment




1. Image gallery


2.  **Da NY Timez Gangsta** @DaNewYorkTimez 11h11 hours ago

Yo! First Case Of Destructive **Southern Pine Beetle** Co danewyorktimez.com/2015/06/08/fir... [#longisland](#) [#pinebarrens](#) [#trees](#)


3.

1.  **Roxanne Savoie** @roxsavoie Jun 9 Rocky Point, NY

[#SpreadingTheWord](#) about the SPB [#LongIsland](#) [@NYSDEC](#) [cbsloc.al/1GpBoa0](#)

4.  **Long Island** @longisland Jun 9

#DEC & the Northeast Compact Education Team coming together to combat the #SouthernPineBeetle on #LongIsland. longisland.com/news/06-08-15/.....

5.  **Trop Forest Network** @forestnetwork Jun 9

#forests DEC Foresters and Northeast Compact Education Team Join Forces to Combat ... - LongIsland.com
owl.li/2ZHeFO

6.  **Da New York Times** @DaNewYorkTimes Jun 8

1st Case Of Destructive **Southern Pine Beetle** Confirmd In Nassau County #LongIsland #pinebarrens #Suffolk
#trees j.mp/1QkmLeO

7.  **Long Island News** @LINewsAlert Jun 8

Southern Pine Beetle Spreads to Bethpage State Park danbod.com/1JE2meW #LongIsland #News

8.  **New York State News** @NYSNews Jun 8

DEC FORESTERS AND NORTHEAST COMPACT EDUCATION TEAM JOIN FORCES TO COMBAT THE
SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE ON LONG ISLAND apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/mediaCont.....

9.  **North Shore Beacher** @rn88cs99 Jun 8 Rocky Point, NY

From News 12 LI: **Southern pine beetle** found in Bethpage State Park #News12LI
longisland.news12.com/news/southern-.....

10.  **News12LI** @News12LI Jun 8

SOUTHERN PINE BEETLES: **Southern pine beetle** found in Bethpage State Park bit.ly/1B0PSfY

11.



1. **Nassau County News** @nassauctynews Jun 7

Southern pine beetle found in Nassau for first time after destroying thousands of trees in Suffolk: A beetle...
[dlvr.it/B7dRMd](#)

12.



1. **Newsday** @Newsday Jun 7

Southern pine beetles destroyed thousands of trees in Suffolk, and now they're in Nassau [.nwsdy.li/1Mgp0tc](#)

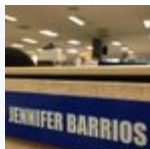


13.



1. **Emily C. Dooley** @eDooleyNoted Jun 7

Officials: Destructive beetle crosses into Nassau [#newsday](#) via [@barrioscq](#) [.newsday.com/long-island/so](#).....



14. **Jennifer Barrios** @barrioscq Jun 7

Officials: Destructive forest beetle now confirmed in Nassau [#newsday](#) [.nwsdy.li/1MzAPLH](#)



15. **Pest Control News** @pestnewser Jun 7

Television

1. Officials: Southern Pine Beetle Reaches Fire Island National

newyork.cbslocal.com/.../long-islands-battle-against-southern...

Apr 8, 2015 - CBS 2CBS 2 is part of CBS **Television** Stations, a division of CBS ... **Long Island's** Battle Against Southern Pine Beetles Stretches To Fire ... "The mission is to limit the spread of the **southern pine beetle** across **Long Island**, but ...

2. Pine Beetle Ravaging A Thousand Acres Of Long Island's ...

newyork.cbslocal.com/.../pine-beetle-ravaging-a-thousand-ac...

Feb 20, 2015 - CBS 2CBS 2 is part of CBS **Television** Stations, a division of CBS Corp. and ... As CBS2's Carolyn Gusoff reported, the **southern pine beetle** made its ... core of **Long Island's** Pine Barrens — pitch pines needed to protect Long ...

3. Destructive Southern Pine Beetle Killing Trees On Long Island

newyork.cbslocal.com/.../11005457-destructive-southern-pin...

It's a **beetle** and it's already killed thousands of **pine** trees on **Long Island**. ... The Move; Living Large; WLNY-TV 10/55; Boomer & Carton On CBS Sports Network ...

4. Destructive Southern Pine Beetle Found In Nassau County

newyork.cbslocal.com/.../southern-pine-beetle-found-nassau-...

5 days ago - The destructive **southern pine beetle** is on the move again, discovered for the ... CBS 2CBS 2 is part of CBS **Television** Stations, a division of CBS Corp. and one ... The Pine Barrens protect **Long Island's** drinking water supply.

5. Long Island Confronts Destructive Southern Pine Beetles ...

www.nytimes.com/.../long-island-confronts-destruc.

Oct 28, 2014 - No one yet knows the extent of the invasion on **Long Island**, but according ... That the **southern pine beetle** would have been found in the pine ...

6. Southern pine beetle found in Bethpage State Park | Verizon

www.fios1news.com/longisland/bethpage-state-park-southern-pine-beetle

5 days ago - Verizon FiOS1 News - **Long Island** ... **TV Listings**. **TV Listings**. Complete ... **Southern pine beetle** found in Bethpage State Park. Officials say the ..

1. New Insect Invader In Connecticut: Southern Pine Beetle ...

www.courant.com/.../hc-connecticut-pine-menace-0403...

Apr 3, 2015 - The **Southern pine beetle** has been found in Connecticut for the first time, ... was found in **Long Island** last year and has infested acres of pine ...

2. [The Southern Pine Beetle Makes Its Mark On Long Island ...](#)

www.27east.com/.../The-Southern-Pine-Beetle-Makes-Its-Mark-On-Long...

Jan 26, 2015 - The **southern pine beetle** is already having an adverse effect on trees on **Long Island**. Upload a Photo. Jan 26, 2015 5:52 PM. By Mike Bottini.

3. [The Day - Invasion of Southern pine beetle confirmed in ...](#)

www.theday.com/article/20150331/NWS01/150339882

Mar 31, 2015 - **Southern pine beetle** is native to the southeastern United States and has ... was detected in the Pitch Pine Preserve in eastern **Long Island** in ..

4. [Southern Pine Beetle Threatens Forests on Long Island ...](#)

www.nbcnewyork.com/.../Southern-Pine-Beetle-Threatens-Forests...

State and federal agencies have found the **beetle** in Hampton Bays, Shirley and Bohemia. Greg Cergol reports.

5. [Southern pine beetle found across state is destroying trees](#)

foxct.com/.../southern-pine-beetle-found-across-state-is-destroying-trees/

Apr 1, 2015 - Fox CT **TV** Schedule. Search ... Although the **southern pine beetle** is a southern species, it has been slowly expanding its range northward in recent years. That has ... And last fall it was first discovered in eastern **Long Island**.

6. [Southern Pine Beetle Threatens Connecticut Trees | NBC ...](#)

www.nbcconnecticut.com/.../Southern-Pine-Beetle-Threatens-Con...

Mar 31, 2015 - Trees try to fight off the **Southern Pine Beetle** by secreting ... Southern Pine Beetles invaded eastern **Long Island** in October 2014 and have ...

There are many other media references to the NY SPB especially dating to the end of 2014 and beginning of 2015.

FINAL COMMENTS

The Team really enjoyed their time in NY and on Long Island meeting several of the DEC employees and other cooperators/collaborators. We feel NY has all the tools to address the challenges the SPB hold for your future. We do all agree that there is a need for a follow-up Team but not at this time. Once your “program” moves more into the private sector there will be a great need to meet the public at their level, which is at events, local meetings etc. and this is a perfect use for a Wildfire Prevention and Education Team. Also one must not underestimate the “potential” for wildfires and the increase in fuel buildups due to the epidemic. It is not inevitable that wildfires will occur just because of the epidemic but those that do will be more dangerous and difficult to suppress making prevention all that more important.

We also have no doubt that all the various agencies/organizations are unified in the task at hand and the organization of a SPB Task Force delivering a One Message-Many Voices campaign will prove valuable in soliciting funding and support.